AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) An optical diffusion film for rear projection type display devices, which comprises:

a transparent base layer,

a layer of transparent microspheres disposed on said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent base layer; and

a light absorbing layer formed over one side of said transparent base layer so as to leave each said transparent microsphere partly bare, said light absorbing layer comprising a coloring material; wherein the coloring material comprises silver behenite.

2. (original) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 1, and further comprising a transparent substrate on which said transparent base layer is formed.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 2, wherein said transparent base layer material comprises a reducing material.

5. (original) An optical diffusion film as described in

claim 4, wherein said reducing material comprises a gallic acid.

6. (original) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 1, wherein said transparent microspheres are between approximately 3 μm and approximately 50 μm in volumetric mean size.

7. (previously presented) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 6, wherein said transparent microspheres are between approximately 3 μm and approximately 15 μm in volumetric mean size.

8. (previously presented) An optical diffusion film as described in claim 6, wherein said transparent microsphere is between approximately 10 μm and approximately 50 μm in volumetric mean size.

9-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A process of producing an optical diffusion film which comprises at least a transparent base layer, a layer of transparent microspheres over said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent base layer; and a light absorbing layer over said transparent base layer leaving each said transparent microsphere partly bare, said optical diffusing film comprising the steps of:

forming a transparent base layer on a transparent substrate;

distributing transparent microspheres in a layer over said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent base layer; and

forming a light absorbing layer over said transparent base layer leaving each said transparent microsphere partly bare by coating a solution layer of coloring material; and

after coating the solution layer, treating said solution layer of coloring material so as thereby to convert said solution layer of coloring material into a layer of fine metal particles as said light absorbing layer;

wherein the coloring material is silver behenite.

22. (previously presented) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 21, comprising the further step of heating said layer of transparent microspheres on said transparent base layer so as to partly embed each said transparent microsphere in said transparent base layer.

23. (previously presented) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 21, comprising the further step of heating said layer of transparent microspheres on said transparent base layer through a heat conductive flexible sheet put over said layer of transparent microspheres.

24. (original) A process of producing an optical diffusion film as described in claim 23, wherein said heat

conductive flexible sheet comprises silicone rubber.

25-37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) An optical diffusion film for rear projection type display devices, which comprises:

a transparent base layer;

a layer of transparent microspheres disposed on said transparent base layer so that each said transparent microsphere is partly embedded in said transparent base layer; and

a light absorbing layer formed over one side of said transparent base layer so as to leave each said transparent microsphere partly bare, said light absorbing layer comprising a coloring material, wherein the coloring material comprises an organometallic salt.

39. (previously presented) The optical diffusion film of claim 38, wherein the organometallic salt is selected from a group consisting of silver salts of long chain aliphatic carboxylic acid, silver salts of organic compounds having an imino group, silver salts of sulfur contained compounds, silver salts of aromatic carboxylic acid, silver salts of sulfonate, silver salts of sulfonic acid, silver salts of phosphoric acid, and silver salts of salicylicaldoxyme.

40. (previously presented) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of long chain aliphatic carboxylic acid.

41. (previously presented) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of organic compounds having an imino group.

42. (previously presented) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is silver salt of sulfur contained compounds.

43. (previously presented) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of aromatic carboxylic acid.

44. (previously presented) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of sulfonate.

45. (previously presented) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of sulfonic acid.

46. (previously presented) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of phosphoric acid.

47. (previously presented) The optical diffusion film of claim 39, wherein the organometallic salt is a silver salt of salicylicaldoxyme.

48. (currently amended) The process of producing an optical diffusion film of claim 21, wherein the transparent base layer comprises a reducing material, said reducing material

reducing the coloring material to produce the fine metal ~~paticles~~ particles.